



September 19, 2008

Weed and Seed awarded \$128,000 grant

A federal grant will help low-income families become homeowners and individuals receive education through Lafayette's Weed and Seed initiative.

The five-year, \$128,750 grant will partially fund the Individual Development Account program that matches \$1 saved with \$3.

Individuals who save \$1,250 can amass \$5,000 toward tuition, books and other costs at Ivy Tech Community College. Two-income families with a combined savings of \$4,000 will accrue \$16,000 toward a first-home purchase, said James Taylor, executive director the Greater Lafayette United Way, a Weed and Seed partner.

"We believe this can be a life-changing program," he said. Education can lead to a high-paying advanced manufacturing job, he said.

The program will help up to 48 families living in the downtown Weed and Seed area during five years.

Participants will agree to a savings plan, financial education classes and learning about homeownership, said JoAnn Miller, associate dean for Purdue University's Interdisciplinary Studies and Engagement and the grant proposal's author.

Applications will be accepted in January.

To qualify, participants must be within 200 percent of national poverty level, which would be around \$40,000 for a family of four, Miller said.

To see if you qualify for the Individual Development Account program, contact coordinator Adam Murphy, (765) 807-1089.

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